

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03665 061935Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-04

OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 /116 W
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O R 061734Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3321

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANZER RETURNS TO LA PAZ AND CONSOLIDATES
CONTROL

1. ON JUNE 5 PRESIDENT BANZER RETURNED TO LA PAZ AND MET WITH
THE JOINT COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES. LATER THE PRESIDENT
REPORTEDLY VISITED THE TARAPACA REGIMENT, UNITS OF WHICH HAD
PARTICIPATED IN THE ABORTED GOLPE. IN THE EVENING, THE
PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THE NATION IN A SPEECH IN WHICH HE DES-
CRIBED ATTACKS ON HIS ADMINISTRATION AS ATTACKS ON NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT. HE PLACE MAJOR BLAME FOR THE REBELLION ON CIRO
HUMBOLDT AND CARLOS VALVERDE, WHOM HE ACCUSED OF ENTICING NAIVE
MILITARY OFFICERS INTO ACTS DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR COUNTRY AND
THE UNITY OF THE ARMED

FORCES. THE PRESIDENT THANKED
THE MILITARY, THE FPN, THE CAMPESINOS AND OTHER SECTORS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03665 061935Z

FOR THEIR SUPPORT. THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH IS REHORTED

IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

2. GENERAL RAUL ALVAREZ, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, DECLARED THAT THE REBELS WOULD BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW. DETENTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN VARIOUS CITIES OF THE NATION BUT FULL LISTS OF PERSONS ARRESTED OR OF THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT ASYLUM IN VARIOUS EMBASSIES ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

3. STUDENTS PROTESTING THE OCCUPATION OF THE UNIVERSITY IN LA PAZ BY FSB MILITANTS SOUGHT TO BLOCK TRAFFIC NEAR THE UNIVERSITY AT NOON OF JUNE 5. THE POLICE DISPERSED THEM WITH EASE. SPOKESMEN FOR THE STRIKING STUDENTS (THE UNIVERSITY INTERFACULTY COMMITTEE) ISSUED A STATEMENT DENYING ANY LINK BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THE COUP ATTEMPT.

4. MOST MAJOR TRADE UNIONS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS DISSOCIATING THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT FROM THE ATTEMPTED COUP. BTM SUB-CHIEFS JAIME ARELLANO AND GUILLERMO FORTUN HAVE OFFICIALLY ASSUMED DIRECTION OF THE MNR. THEY WILL BE ASSISTED BY A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MADE UP OF THE MNR MINISTERS IN THE GOB, THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE CHIEF OF THE TRADE UNION COMMAND AND THE CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMAND OF LA PAZ. THE SUB-CHIEFS CALLED FOR A NATIONAL MNR CONVENTION WITHIN SIXTY DAYS TO REGULARIZE THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP.

6. TODAY'S PRESS

QUOTES MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA

AS SAYING: "THE ARMED FORCES ARE PRESENTLY CARRYING OUT ALL INVESTIGATIONS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FAILED COUP HEADED BY LT. COL. LOPEZ LEYTON AND MAJ. PRADO SALMON WHO WILL BE SANCTIONED BY THE JOINT COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES.

7. COMMENT: PRESIDENT BANZER APPEARS TO BE CONSOLIDATING HIS CONTROL. NEVERTHELESS, THE ATTEMPTED GOLPE IN WHICH ELITE ELEMENTS (TARAPACA AND INGAVI) PARTICIPATED MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR BANZER TO REESTABLISH HIMSELF AS SOLIDLY AS BEFORE.

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